

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 were rejected. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 were objected. With this Amendment, claims 2, 4, 7, and 8 were amended, and claims 1 and 5 were cancelled. Accordingly, claims 2-4 and 6-8 are at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 4-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Marugame (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,649). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claims 4 and 8 to depend from claims 2 and 6, which have been found to be allowable, and have cancelled claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

II. Objection To Claims

Claims 2-3 and 6-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 2 and 6 to include all of the limitations of the base claims. Claims 3 and 7 depend from claims 2 and 6, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated, and respectfully request its withdrawal.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 1, 2005

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